

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were pending in the application prior to the present amendment.

Claims 1-17 and 22-48 are herein cancelled.

Claims 49-94 are herein added.

Therefore, Claims 18-21 and 49-94 will be pending in the application after entry of the present amendment.

Claims 18-21 were indicated as being allowed. Claim 18 has been amended to enhance clarity of the claim language.

Claims 1-4, 9, 11-17, 22-24, 26-27, 29-34 and 36-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manchester et al. (USPN 6,144,399) in view of Stemmons et al. (USPN 4,839,531). Claims 1-17 and 22-48 are herein cancelled, and new claims 49-94 are herein added in order to more clearly define the Applicant's inventions. Claims 49-94 are patentably distinguished over Manchester et al. (hereinafter referred to simply as "Manchester"), Stemmons et al. (hereinafter referred to simply as "Stemmons") and the combination of Manchester and Stemmons as evidenced by the following reasoning.

Claim 49 recites:

"A system comprising:
a first cable;
a second cable;
a converter in electrical communication with the first cable and the second cable, wherein the converter is configured to:
convert first differential data received from the first cable to first coaxial data and transmit the first coaxial data onto the second cable; and
receive power and supply the power to one or more other devices through the second cable;

wherein the second cable comprises first and second coaxial cables, wherein each of the first and second coaxial cables comprises a conductor and a shield at least partially surrounding the conductor;

wherein the converter is configured to supply the power to the one or more devices through the shield of the first coaxial cable and the shield of the second coaxial cable.”

This combination of features is nowhere suggested in Manchester, Stemmons, or the combination of Manchester and Stemmons. In particular, neither Manchester nor Stemmons teach or suggest that “the converter is configured to supply the power to the one or more devices through the shield of the first coaxial cable and the shield of the second coaxial cable” as recited in claim 49. Therefore, claim 49 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over Manchester and Stemmons at least for the reasons given above.

Claim 60 recites:

“A system comprising:
a first cable configured to transmit first coaxial data;
a first converter in electrical communication with the first cable and configured to convert the first coaxial data to first differential data; and
a switch in electrical communication with the first converter and having a plurality of ports, wherein the switch is configured to receive and route packets of the first differential data to any of said ports.”

This combination of features is nowhere suggested in Manchester, Stemmons, or the combination of Manchester and Stemmons. In particular, neither Manchester nor Stemmons teach or suggest “a switch in electrical communication with the first converter and having a plurality of ports, wherein the switch is configured to receive and route packets of the first differential data to any of said ports” as recited in claim 60.

The Examiner relies on network interface 114 of Manchester Figure 1 as evidence for the anticipation of the switch of former claim 12. However, Manchester nowhere teaches or suggests that the network interface 114 is “a switch in electrical communication with the first converter and having a plurality of ports, wherein the switch is configured to receive and route packets of the first differential data to any of said ports” as recited in claim 60.

Therefore, claim 60 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over Manchester and Stemmons at least for the reasons given above.

Claim 68 recites:

“A converter comprising:
a first port configured to receive first differential data from a first cable;
a first transformer in electrical communication with the first port and configured to convert the first differential data to first coaxial data;
a second port in electrical communication with the first transformer and configured to transmit the first coaxial data onto a second cable;
a third port configured to receive second coaxial data from a third cable;
a second transformer in electrical communication with the third port and configured to convert the second coaxial data to second differential data; and
a fourth port in electrical communication with the second transformer and configured to transmit the second differential data onto the first cable;
first and second conductive lines in electrical communication with a first terminal of the second port and a first terminal of the third port respectively;
wherein the second and third cables are coaxial cables, each having a conductor and a shield at least partially surrounding the conductor;
wherein the first terminal of the second port and the first terminal of the third port are configured for coupling to the shield of the second cable and the shield of the third cable respectively;
wherein the first and second conductive lines are configured to transmit power, provided by the shield of the second cable and the shield of the third cable, to one or more power output ports.”

This combination of features is nowhere suggested in Manchester, Stemmons, or the combination of Manchester and Stemmons. In particular, neither Manchester nor Stemmons teach or suggest a converter including “first and second conductive lines ... wherein the first and second conductive lines are configured to transmit power, provided by the shield of the second cable and the shield of the third cable, to one or more power output ports” as recited in claim 68. Therefore, claim 68 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over Manchester and Stemmons at least for the reasons given above.

Claim 72 recites:

“A method for transmitting data and power across a network, the method comprising:
transmitting first coaxial data and power through a first cable;
receiving the first coaxial data and the power from the first cable;
converting the first coaxial data to first differential data;
transmitting the first differential data onto a second cable;
providing the received power to one or more devices;
wherein the first cable includes a first coaxial cable and a second coaxial cable, each having a conductor and a shield at least partially surrounding the conductor, wherein said receiving the power from the first cable comprises receiving the power from the shield of the first coaxial cable and the shield of the second coaxial cable.”

This combination of features is nowhere suggested in Manchester, Stemmons, or the combination of Manchester and Stemmons. In particular, neither Manchester nor Stemmons teach or suggest “receiving the power from the shield of the first coaxial cable and the shield of the second coaxial cable” as recited in claim 72. Therefore, claim 72 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over Manchester and Stemmons at least for the reasons given above.

Claim 84 recites:

“A distribution device for use in transmitting data and power, the method comprising:
a switch in electrical communication with an uplink connector and having a plurality of ports, wherein the switch is configured to receive data from the uplink connector and route packets of the data to any of said ports;
a first cable in electrical communication with a first of said ports and configured to receive first differential data from said first port and transmit the first differential data;
a first converter in electrical communication with the first cable and configured to:
receive the first differential data from the first cable;
convert the first differential data to first coaxial data;
transmit the first coaxial data to a second cable; and
receive power from a power bus and transmit the power onto the second cable.”

This combination of features is nowhere suggested in Manchester, Stemmons, or the combination of Manchester and Stemmons. In particular, neither Manchester nor Stemmons teach or suggest “a switch in electrical communication with an uplink connector and having a plurality of ports, wherein the switch is configured to receive data from the uplink connector and route packets of the data to any of said ports” as recited in claim 84. Therefore, claim 84 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over Manchester and Stemmons at least for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5957-03101/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- Return Receipt Postcard
- Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- Notice of Change of Address
- Check in the amount of \$ _____ for fees (_____).
- Other: _____

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 8/19/2005 JCH/MKB